

## Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

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R 101000Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7217

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 0367

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE REACTION TO EX-SOLDIER NAKAMURA'S RETURN TO  
TAIWAN

SUMMARY: JAPANESE PRESS HAS TREATED STORY OF  
EX-SOLDIER NAKAMURA'S EMERGENCE FROM A 31-YEAR ORDEAL  
IN THE INDONESIAN JUNGLE WITH SYMPATHY AND WITHOUT  
COMMENTARY ON THE MEANING OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM THAT  
ACCOMPANIED THE EARLIER RETURN OF JAPANESE ARMY  
STRAGGLERS YOKOI AND ONODA. END SUMMARY.

1. THE JAPANESE PRESS HAS TREATED WITH GREAT INTEREST  
AND SYMPATHY THE STORY OF TERUO NAKAMURA (ALLAS LEE  
KUANG-HUEI), A JAPANESE SOLDIER OF TAIWANESE  
ABORIGINAL ORIGIN WHO HAD HELD OUT ALONE IN THE  
INDONESIAN JUNGLE FOR 31 YEARS, EMERGED ON DECEMBER 19,  
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AND RETURNED TO TAIWAN ON JANUARY 8. UNLIKE TWO

PREVIOUS CASES OF THE RETURN OF YOKOI AND ONODA FROM THE JUNGLES, WHICH GAVE RISE TO A PLETHORA OF COMMENTARY ON THE MEANING OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM AND THE MENTALITY THAT CHARACTERIZED IT AS SEEN IN THOSE STRAGGLERS, THE PRESS THIS TIME TREATED NAKAMURA'S STORY MAINLY IN HUMAN INTEREST TERMS. WHILE FOREGOING COMMENTARY ALSO ON THE PATHOS OF WAR, THE PRESS LET NAKAMURA'S STORY SPEAK FOR ITSELF.

2. THE PRESS AT FIRST IMPLICITLY CRITICIZED THE GOJ FOR ITS "COLDNESS" AFTER NAKAMURA, FOR SOME UNEXPLAINED REASON, CHANGED HIS MIND AND DECIDED TO RETURN DIRECTLY TO TAIWAN WITHOUT FIRST STOPPING IN JAPAN AS HE HAD ORIGINALLY SAID, AND WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT NAKAMURA WAS ENTITLED ONLY TO THE EQUIVALENT OF \$230 IN BACK PAY AND ALLOWANCES. SUCH CRITICISM, HOWEVER, DIMINISHED AFTER PRIME MINISTER MIKI EXTENDED JAPAN'S WELCOME TO NAKAMURA AT ANY TIME, AND THE GOVERNMENT PROVIDED A SOLATIUM AND DONATIONS FROM CABINET MINISTERS TOTALING \$10,500.

3. JCP ORGAN "AKAHATA", THE ONLY NEWSPAPER THUS FAR TO MAKE ANY EDITORIAL REFERENCE TO NAKAMURA, NOTED BRIEFLY THAT NAKAMURA'S CASE DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE OF YOKOI AND ONODA. THE LATTER WERE LABELLED REMNANTS OF JAPANESE AGGRESSIVE WAR CONDUCTED 30 YEARS AGO; NAKAMURA'S UPBRINGING AND SITUATION IN ADDITION REMIND ONE OF AN EARLIER AGGRESSION BY JAPANESE FORCES THE SINO-JAPANESE WAR OF 1895 BY WHICH JAPAN ACQUIRED TAIWAN. THEREFORE, WHEN CONSIDERING THE MEANING OF JAPANESE IMPERIALISM, THE PAPER SAID, ONE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EVENTS GOING BACK TO THE MEIJI PERIOD.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT PRESS HANDLING AND VIRTUAL EDITORIAL SILENCE SINCE DECEMBER REFLECT PUBLIC VIEWS HERE TOWARD NAKAMURA. BECAUSE OF HIS NON-JAPANESE ORIGIN, JAPANESE DO NOT IDENTIFY THEMSELVES WITH HIM. HE SERVES, THEREFORE, NEITHER AS AN EXAMPLE OF AN ASPECT OF THE JAPANESE NATIONAL CHARACTER OR OF MILITARY ARTISTIC MENTALITY. HE IS SEEN AS UNCLASSIFIED

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A TAIWANESE CAUGHT UP IN THE WAR, WHO, FOR HIS OWN REASONS, STUCK IT OUT VALIANTLY IN THE JUNGLE AND BECAME OBLIVIOUS TO 31 YEARS OR CHANGE. IN THE JAPANESE VIEW, GOJ HAS THE OBLIGATION, WHICH IT HAS AMPLY MET, OF PROVIDING HIM WITH THE FUNDS TO EASE HIS TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE.  
HODGSON

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